

■ FOOTBALL: POSTGAME NOTEBOOK

Hall shatters Newsome's record

By DAN SELLERS
Sports Editor
sellers@cw.ua.edu

It didn't take long for Alabama receiver DJ Hall to put his name atop the Crimson Tide record books Saturday. On the first offensive play for Alabama, John Parker Wilson connected with Hall on a 43-yard pass.

Hall was far from through on the drive or the quarter as he reeled off 118 yards in the first frame. Hall capped the opening drive with a 9-yard touchdown grab, where he wrestled the ball away from two Arkansas defenders.

Two drives later, Hall scored on a 35-yard touchdown pass. Hall didn't play much in the second half after tweaking a quad muscle. He played the final drive of the game but was used as a decoy.

Hall finished the game with a career-best 172 yards on six receptions. He now has 2,209 career yards, 138 yards ahead of Newsome's mark of 2,070. Hall also has 140 career receptions, just 12 shy of Freddie Milons's mark of 152 catches.

Caddell delivers in the clutch

Before Saturday, Matt Caddell's career on campus was full of dropped balls and underproduction. Now it's safe to say he has changed that perception.

Caddell was an integral part of the Tide's effectiveness through the air, especially on the game-winning drive. He caught nine passes for 91 yards. Four of his catches came on the last drive for 40 yards.

He also had a couple of clutch first-down grabs to convert third downs earlier in the game.

Will Oakley recorded his first catch of the season Saturday. The 16-yard catch helped the Tide convert a third down to get Alabama into field goal



CW/ T.G. Paschal

DJ Hall reels in the record-setting catch on the first offensive play for Alabama. The 43-yard reception put Hall ahead of Ozzie Newsome for the leading receiver in Tide history. Hall finished the game with 172 yards.

range late in the fourth quarter.

Tight end Nick Walker recorded his second touchdown catch of the year with a 3-yard grab in the second half.

Britt OK after helmet-throwing incident

Senior guard Justin Britt got a surprise when Arkansas

defensive tackle Ernest Mitchell ripped Britt's helmet off after a play and swung it at his face.

Britt said the helmet didn't hit him square in the face, so he was able to resume playing after sitting out one play. Mitchell was ejected on the play and could face a suspension from the league office, if they see fit.

"There's no place for that in college football," Saban said after the game. "We all have to control our emotions... There's no excuse for acting like that."

Wilson has career game in comeback win

John Parker Wilson had the best game of his career against Arkansas last season going 16-of-20 with three touchdowns and 240 yards.

This year was more of the same. Wilson set career highs in completions (24), attempts (45), yards (327) and touchdowns (4). It was Wilson's first 300-yard game of his career, surpassing his old mark of 291 yards against LSU in 2006.

Wilson was 7-of-9 on the final drive after struggling for most of the second half. He threw touchdown passes of 9 yards and 35 yards to Hall and 3-yard scoring strikes to Walker and Caddell.

Mustin injured in second quarter

The Alabama defense took a noticeable hit when senior linebacker Darren Mustin left the game with an injury, which Saban said was a shoulder injury. Saban should have more comment in his press conference today.

Leigh Tiffin had his shoulder come out of place on the opening kickoff. Tiffin came back on the field after the first extra point and handled

every other kick. He said after the game that he is OK.

Keith Saunders and Rashad Johnson had to be helped off the field, but Saban did not comment on their injuries.

Arenas keeps setting up scores

Javier Arenas has made it a habit of making at least one big return per game. Saturday was no different as the sophomore return sensation took a punt 58 yards to the 3-yard line to set up a crucial Tide score.

Alabama now has scored one play after an Arenas return in all three games this season. Terry Grant had a 47-yard scoring run after a big kick-off return by Arenas against Western Carolina.

Grant took it in from 1-yard out after a 69-yard return by Arenas against Vanderbilt, and Wilson hit Walker on a 2-yard pass after Arenas's 58-yard punt return against Arkansas.

Tide moves into national rankings

The Alabama football team moved into the national

polls after the 41-38 win over Arkansas for the first time since Alabama's loss to the Razorbacks last season.

Alabama moved to No. 16 in The Associated Press poll and No. 20 in the USA Today Coaches poll.

It was the first time Alabama has been in the AP poll since the end of the 2005 season.

Alabama was ranked in the Coaches poll since the Arkansas game last season.

Tide, Razorbacks even in game statistics

Saturday's game was one of the most even games in the history of football.

Each team totaled 450 yards on offense, although they did it in different ways with Arkansas racking up yards on the ground and Alabama through the air.

The teams had identical third down conversion numbers, and time of possession was only 33 seconds off.

Each team was penalized seven times and converted five red zone trips. Alabama scored 21 points in the first 14 minutes, and Arkansas scored 21 points to tie the game in six minutes.

Georgia game to be on ESPN

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the second straight week, Alabama will play the Saturday ESPN Primetime college football game.

The SEC announced Sunday the Alabama-Georgia game will kick off at 6:45 p.m. and will be aired by ESPN, with Mike Patrick (play-by-play), Todd Blackledge (analyst) and

Holly Rowe (sideline reporter) calling the action from Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The Georgia game marks Alabama's third televised game of the 2007 season and second straight ESPN telecast. The Crimson Tide's 41-38 win over then No. 16 Arkansas last Saturday night was also aired by ESPN.

Other SEC games slated for

television on Saturday, Sept. 22 include Florida at Ole Miss (Lincoln Financial), South Carolina at LSU (CBS) and Kentucky at Arkansas (ESPN2).

Alabama will play Georgia for the first time since 2003 when the Bulldogs pounded the Tide.

Alabama lost a close one to Georgia in 2002 under Dennis Franchione.

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